



*Plan of Work -  
2021*

*Waseca Soil and Water  
Conservation District*

Adopted by Board February 12, 2021



# Introduction

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The SWCD is the local unit of government that provides assistance to citizens who are interested in preserving, restoring and protecting soil and water resources in Waseca County.

***The mission of the Waseca SWCD*** – “The District cooperates with all governmental units to determine, to educate, to assist the implementation of District, State and Federal conservation practices, and to promote soil, water and environmental stewardship of the Waseca County natural resources.”

Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District’s 2021 Annual Plan of Work is developed from the District’s Long Range Plan. The Waseca SWCD, through a resolution on April 16, 2019, has adopted the Waseca County’s Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (CLWMP) as our Long Range Plan. The Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board (CRWJPB) adopted the Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CRCWMP) on behalf of its members on October 7, 2020. Waseca SWCD will use the CRCWMP for areas of the county within the Cannon River Watershed. Specific action items that relate to goals of the SWCD are taken from the CLWMP and CRCWP. There are other action items that address the goals of the SWCD that are not specifically outlined in the CLWMP or CRCWMP but do fall under more general goals such as “education”.

The purpose of the plan is to guide us in effectively providing maximum conservation to all the land in the District, placing priorities on high priority areas as identified. This plan includes guidelines for employees and supervisors for the achievement of the District objectives.

# District Board of Supervisors

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The Board meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Meeting Room at 300 North State Street, Waseca MN. (date & time subject to change check website for current information)

## **DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD AREA OF REPRESENTATION**

- Chairman - Wayne Cords - Janesville and Alton Townships
- Vice Chairman - Scott Hildebrandt - St. Mary and Woodville Townships
- Treasurer - Todd Stencel - Freedom, Wilton and Vivian Townships
- Secretary - Keith Morgan - Iosco and Blooming Grove Townships
- Member – Larry Muff - Otisco, Byron, and New Richland Townships

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Personnel
- Budget and Planning
- County Water Plan
- GBERBA
- South Central Technical Service Area
- Waseca Lakes Association
- Lake Elysian Association
- Cannon River Watershed Partnership
- Le Sueur River Watershed Network
- Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board
- Le Sueur One Watershed One Plan

## **DISTRICT STAFF**

- Mark Schaetzke, District Manager
- Tyler Polster, District Technician
- Cheri Brummund, Administrative Assistant

## **WEBSITE**

- Waseca SWCD – Website – [www.wasecaswcd.org](http://www.wasecaswcd.org)

## **NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL NRCS STAFF**

- Ciara Ahrens, USDA-NRCS Team Lead
- Jessica Beske, Soil Conservation Technician

## **WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

- De Malterer, Chair
- Brad Krause, Vice Chair
- Douglas Christopherson
- Blair Nelson
- Brian Harguth

## **WASECA COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING**

- Mark Leiferman, Planning and Zoning Administrator
- Haley Byron, Water Specialist
- Brian Zabel, Technician/Feedlot Officer/Ag Inspector

## **WASECA COUNTY DITCH INSPECTOR**

- Russell Guse

## **WASECA COUNTY FARM SERVICES AGENCY BOARD:**

- Mark Ritter, County Executive Director
- Brady Adams
- Scott Hildebrandt
- Kevin Klemmensen, Chairman
- Gretchen Supalla
- Scott Kasper

# PRIORITY CONCERNS

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## **Goal 1:**

*Protect and Improve the Quality of Water Resources Throughout the County.*

### **Objective**

*Reduce erosion and sediment loading of surface water resources.*

### **Actions**

- Promote NRCS programs and practices that control soil erosion and reduce sedimentation to downstream waters.
- Implement the SWCD conservation practice State Cost-Share program targeting practices on high priority erosion areas.
- Implement the following conservation practices: five grassed waterways; five water and sediment basins; one terrace system; two erosion control structures; two thousand acres of reduced tillage; and five acres of farmstead windbreaks.
- Pursue GBERBA and Cannon Watershed Based Implementation funding for conservation practice implementation.
- In cooperation with Waseca County, continue and complete water quality monitoring information on Iosco and Bull Run Creeks.
- Promote the application of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) buffer strips adjacent to drainage ditches, streams, and wetlands.
- Work with the County, BWSR, and landowners to implement the State Buffer and Soil Erosion Law.
- Assist with the implementation of the Waseca county Comprehensive Water Management Plan and CRCWMP.
- Participate in the planning process for the Le Sueur River Watershed One Watershed One Plan effort and serve as the fiscal agent for the planning grant.

## **Goal 2:**

*Maintain and Enhance the County's Drainage System and Wetland Resources.*

### **Objective**

*Properly manage the County's drainage system. Preserve and restore wetlands.*

## **Actions**

- Serve on the MN Wetland Conservation Act Technical Evaluation Panel.
- Promote enrollment of drained wetland basins in the RIM, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), CRP, and Wetland Banking programs.
- Promote implementation of controlled drainage systems and bioreactors to reduce nitrogen discharge into surface waters.
- Promote implementation of Comprehensive Drainage Management Plans on all public and private drainage systems.
- Assist the County, MSU-Water Resources Center, and the city of New Richland with reducing flooding within the city.

## **Goal 3:**

*Protect and Enhance the County's Shoreland and Natural Corridors*

### **Objective**

*Develop and implement reasonable strategies to protect and enhance natural corridors.*

## **Actions**

- Promote the implementation of CRP vegetative buffer strips on drainage ditches, streams, and wetlands throughout the County.
- Promote enrollment of riparian areas adjacent to streams, drainage ditches, and wetlands in RIM and new CREP programs.

## **Goal 4:**

*Increase Awareness on Key Water Planning Issues.*

### **Objective**

*Expand the public's knowledge and understanding of important soil and water resource issues and concerns.*

## **Actions**

- Work closely with the County Commissioners and County departments to solve soil and water resource problems.
- Participate in the MASWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol.
- Sponsor soil and water resource awareness programs for students.
- Consider sponsoring a tree planting day for students.

- Recognize an Outstanding Conservation Farmer in July.
- Providing yard signs to current outstanding conservation farmers.
- Publish a newsletter December - January
- Publish a 2020 Annual Report in March.
- Publish a 2022 Conservation Calendar.
- Participate and sponsor area Soil Health Group Events.
- Participate in the City/County Ag Forum in March.
- Sponsoring a tree day open house.
- Observe Soil Stewardship Week by providing information to County churches and schools.
- Sharing a booth with Waseca County P & Z at the County Fair.
- Promote Soil & Water Practices and Programs at Farmamerica-Taste of the Farm Event and SROC-Open House
- Update and promote the SWCD website
- Participate in the County Feedlot Site Inspection Team – Site Inspections
- Work with NRCS on Conservation Plans
- Participate in the MASWCD State Convention.
- Participate in Le Sueur River Civic Engagement Plan and serve as the fiscal agent for the grant.

## Other Waseca SWCD Operational Actions

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- Assist Waseca County with development and implementation of a comprehensive County Forest Management Plan.
- Sponsor a tree program and promote tree planting for windbreaks, wildlife habitat, and erosion control purposes.
- Meet with the County Commissioners in June to discuss the Districts 2022 Budget and County Operational Allocation.

All programs and services of the District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age marital status or handicap.